

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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FM AMANBASSY LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0023

AMEMASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 05469

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MT, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH DEFENSE REVIEW AND MALTA

REF: VALLETTA 810; LONDON 5210 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING RESPONDS TO QUERY PARA 4 VALLETTA 810:
ROUGH DESCRIPTION OF UK DEFENSE REVIEW IS AS FOLLOWS:
MOD HAS A GENERAL GUIDELINE FOR PERCENT OF GNP TO BE
SPENT ON DEFENSE DURING 77-83 PERIOD BUT WILL NOT BE
REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THIS GUIDELINE SLAVISHLY SN PLANNING.
CYCLE WILL START WITH STUDY OF COMMITMENTS UK HAS TO
DEFENSE IN PACIFIC AS LOWEST PRIORITY AND WORK ITS WAY
TO MIDDLE EAST, MEDITERRANEAN AND FINALLY NATO AND GREAT
BRITAIN ITSELF. MOD SOURCES SAY THAT ORDER OF
CONSIDERATION IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT DEMONSTRATES THAT
HIGHEST PRIORITY IS NATO. COMMITMENTS WILL BE MEASURED
AGAINST CAPABILITIES AND RESOURCES EXPECTED TO BE
AVAILABLE. RESULTS WILL BE FORMULATED IN COMPREHENSIVE
WHITE PAPER. STUDY SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN EARLY SUMMER
(PERHAPS LATE JUNE) AND PUT TO MINISTERS. AFTER
MINISTERS BLESS PROGRAM, ALLIES, ESPECIALLY THE UNITED
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STATES, WILL BE CONSULTED. WHEN THIS IS FINISHED, THE

WHITE PAPER WILL BE PUBLISHED, HOPEFULLY IN FALL 1974.

2. AS WE REPORTED IN LONDON 5210, MINTOFF DID RAISE
THE UK DEFENSE REVIEW AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL (WEDGWOOD
BENN), ALTHOUGH NOT WITH A COMPETENT MINISTER.

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